EPA RadNet Milk Results

Last updated April 4, 2011

Statement on Results

Results from a screening sample taken March 25 from Spokane, Wash. detected 0.8 pCi/L of iodine-131, which is more than 5,000 times lower than the Derived Intervention Level set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

These types of findings are to be expected in the coming days and are far below levels of public health concern, including for infants and children. Iodine-131 has a very short half-life of approximately eight days, and the level detected in milk and milk products is therefore expected to drop relatively quickly.

About the Data

As part of our efforts to ensure that there is no public health concern in the U.S. related to radiation exposure, EPA routinely samples cow's milk at more than 30 stations every three months.

EPA has accelerated our quarterly milk sampling across the nation to collect the samples immediately. This action is precautionary, to make sure that we are gathering as much data as possible, informing our scientists and the public.

The milk samples are analyzed by gamma spectrometry, looking for fission products such as iodine-131 (I-131), barium-140 (Ba-140), and cesium-137 (Cs-137), which could become present in the event of a nuclear accident. All results are measured in picocuries per liter (pCi/L). A picocurie is one trillionth of a curie.

EPA RadNet Milk Concentration Measurement Data

Issued: 4/4/11

State	Location	Date Collected	Radionuclide (pCi/l)							
			Ba-140	Co-60	Cs-134	Cs-137	I-131	I-132	I-133	Te-132
IA	Des Moines	3/21/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
WA	Spokane	3/21/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
WA	Spokane	3/25/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.77	ND	ND	ND
WA	Tacoma	3/24/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

KEY: "ND" - radionuclide not detected.

EPA RadNet Milk Concentration Measurement Data

Issued: 4/2/11

State	Location	Date Collected	Radionuclide (pCi/l)							
			Ba-140	Co-60	Cs-134	Cs-137	I-131	I-132	I-133	Te-132
IA	Des Moines	3/21/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
WA	Spokane	3/25/2011	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.77	ND	ND	ND

KEY: "ND" - radionuclide not detected.